

Serial No. 09/786,547

Docket No. 03042-PA

## IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (previously cancelled).

✓ Claim 15 (currently amended) Vertical suitcase of essentially ~~parallelepipedal~~ parallelepipedal shape without rigid peripheral frame having a plurality of faces consisting of supple material, wherein the rigidification of the suitcase is <sup>NM</sup> substantially achieved by two tubes joining a lower surface part and an upper surface part supporting the ~~aforesaid~~ said supple material, said tubes consisting of guides ~~the for a plurality of~~ rods of a retractable handle provided in the upper surface part, said tubes being adjacent to a rear face opposite a front face having an opening covered by a flap ~~or panel~~, a closing means for opening the flap ~~or panel~~, the upper surface part and a ~~the~~ lower parts surface part being in the form of a curved molded piece or curved sheet of plastic of curved form defining at least the upper and lower rounded arrises of the rear face of the suitcase, the two lateral faces, ~~being each~~ each being made of a supple material and being hooped by a retaining elastic ring.

Krenzel?  
(076221) ✓ Claim 16 (currently amended) Suitcase according to claim 15 ~~in~~, wherein the plastic is a semirigid plastic.

✓ Claim 17 (currently amended) Suitcase according to claim 15, wherein the upper and lower surface parts constitute ~~the~~ separate elements forming an upper shell and a lower shell.

Claim 18 (original) Suitcase according to claim 15, wherein the upper and lower surface parts are integrated into one integral piece covered by the rear face.

✓ Claim 19 (currently amended) Suitcase according to claim 15, wherein ~~the incurved a~~ the curved form of the lower surface part or shell is imposed by the curved extremity of the tubes, //

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✓ and wherein a the curved the incurved form of the upper surface part or shell being is imposed by the  
 ✓ lateral retaining rings <sup>narrow</sup> such being preferably metallic retaining rings, provided in the form of two  
 lateral frames defining the lateral faces in flexible the supple material. ✓

71 w/ 84  
462' 454 Claim 20 (currently amended) Suitcase according to claim 15, wherein the upper  
surface part and the lower parts surface part are in the form of a polyethylene sheet or plate. ✓

Claim 21 ✓ (currently amended) Suitcase according to claim 15, wherein the sheet  
 constituting the upper part or shell does not support at least a front part of the upper face of the  
 suitcase. ✓

FLB  
 Claim 22 (currently amended) Suitcase according to the preceding claim characterized  
 in that Vertical suitcase of essentially parallelepipedal shape without rigid peripheral frame having a  
plurality of faces consisting of supple material, wherein a rigidification of the suitcase is achieved by  
two tubes joining a lower surface part and an upper surface part supporting said supple material, said  
tubes consisting of guides for a plurality of rods of a retractable handle provided in the upper surface  
part, said tubes being adjacent to a rear face opposite a front face having an opening covered by a  
flap, a closing means for opening the flap, the upper surface part and the lower surface part being in  
the form of a molded piece or sheet of plastic of curved form defining at least upper and lower  
rounded arrises of the rear face of the suitcase, two lateral faces each being made of a supple material  
and being hooped by a retaining elastic ring, wherein the sheet constituting the upper part does not  
support at least a front part of the upper face of the suitcase, wherein a zip fastener opening, for  
example an opening zipper provided on the front face of the suitcase, extends up to at least the

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~~aforsaid~~ front part of the upper face, preferably between 10% and 50% of the first face its surface,  
enabling a partial opening of the upper face.

Claim 23 (currently amended) Suitcase according to claim ~~17~~ 15, wherein in which the  
~~shell or lower surface~~ part is attached ~~by riveting~~, to the exterior of the ~~uncurved~~ curved extremities  
of the tubes by riveting.

Claims 24-25 (cancelled).

E1  
Claim 26 (currently amended) A vertical suitcase of essentially parallelipipedal shape  
~~without rigid frame~~ comprising:

an upper surface part having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and  
a fourth edge and being a formed sheet ~~of a tough material~~ with a curved form defining an a rounded  
first upper arris at the first edge of the upper surface part and defining a rounded third upper arris at  
the third edge of the upper surface part;

a front face consisting of supple material and having an opening and having  
sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge, wherein the first edge of the  
front face is joined by the third edge of the upper surface;

a lower surface part having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a  
fourth edge wherein the third edge of the front face is joined by the first edge of the lower surface  
part and being a formed sheet ~~of a tough material~~ with a curved form defining a rounded first lower  
arris at the first edge of the lower surface part and defining a rounded third lower arris at the third  
edge of the lower surface part;

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a rear face consisting of supple material and having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge, wherein the third ~~face~~ edge of the lower surface part is joined by the ~~third~~ first edge of the rear face and wherein the first edge of the upper surface part is joined by the third edge of the rear face;

112  
E' a pair of tubes extending between the upper surface part near the first edge of the upper surface part and the lower surface part near the first edge of the lower surface part thereby achieving a rigidification of the suitcase (by the pair of tubes) and wherein the pair of tubes supports the supple material of the rear face, wherein said tubes are disposed adjacent to the rear face;

a retractable handle located on the outside of the upper surface part and including a pair of rods adapted to slide in the pair of tubes, wherein said pair of tubes consists of guides for the rods of the retractable handle;

a flap ~~or panel~~ covering the opening;

closing means for opening the flap ~~or panel~~;

a first lateral face being made of a supple material and having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge, wherein the first edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the upper surface part, wherein the second edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the front face, wherein the third edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the lower surface part, wherein the fourth edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the rear face;

a second lateral face being made of a supple material and having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge, wherein the first edge of the first lateral side

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adjoins the fourth edge of the upper surface part, wherein the second edge of the first lateral side adjoins the fourth edge of the front face, wherein the third edge of the first lateral side adjoins the fourth edge of the lower surface part, wherein the fourth edge of the first lateral side adjoins the fourth edge of the rear face;

a first elastic retaining ring hooping the first lateral side to the second edge of the upper surface part, to the second edge of the front face, to the second edge of the lower surface part, and to the second edge of the rear face;

E1  
a second elastic retaining ring hooping the second lateral side to the fourth edge of the upper surface part, to the fourth edge of the front face, to the fourth edge of the lower surface part, and to the fourth edge of the rear face.

✓ Claim 27 (previously added) The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein the upper surface part and the lower surface part are made of a semirigid plastic.

Claim 28 (previously added) The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein the upper and lower surface parts constitute the separate elements forming upper shell and lower shell. ✓

P ✓ Claim 29 (currently amended) The suitcase according to claim 26, further comprising a <sup>what</sup> central part disposed between the first edge of the upper surface part and the third edge of the lower surface part, wherein the upper surface part and the lower surface parts part are integrated together with the central part into an integral piece covered by the rear face. ✓

Claim 30 (currently amended) The suitcase according to claim 26, wherein ~~a curved form of the lower surface part is imposed by curved based on~~ curved extremities of the pair of tubes, wherein ~~a curved form of the upper surface part is imposed by curved based on~~ the first lateral

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retaining ring and ~~by based on~~ the second lateral retaining ring, wherein the lateral retaining rings are made of metal, and wherein the lateral retaining rings are furnished in the form of two lateral frames defining the lateral faces in flexible material.

~~Claim 31~~ (currently amended) The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein the upper surface part and the lower surface part are fabricated from a polyethylene sheet ~~or plate~~.

~~Claim 32~~ (currently amended) The suitcase according to claim 26 further comprising a zip fastener furnished for the opening and furnished on the front face of the suitcase and extending up to at least the ~~aforesaid~~ front part of the upper face over from about 15 to 40% of the surface of the front part and for enabling a partial opening of the ~~front upper~~ face.

1  
2  
Claim 33 (currently amended) The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein the pair of tubes each has a curved end, the lower surface part is attached to the ~~outer side of~~ curved ends of the pair of tubes by riveting.

CFR 1.126  
42  
Claim 34 (new) A vertical suitcase of essentially parallelepipedal shape without rigid circumscribing frame and having a front face, a rear face, an upper face, a lower face and two lateral faces, wherein a rigidification of the suitcase is substantially achieved by two tubes joining a lower surface part and an upper surface part supporting a supple material to form the lower face and at least part of the upper face, said tubes consisting of guides for a plurality of rods of a retractable handle provided in the upper surface part, said tubes being adjacent to the rear face opposite to the front face having an opening covered by a flap, a closing means for opening the flap, the upper surface part and the lower surface part being in the form of a curved molded piece or curved sheet of plastic defining at least upper and lower rounded arrises of the rear face of the suitcase, lateral faces each being made

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of a supple material and each being hooped by a retaining elastic ring of rectangular form, wherein said lateral faces can be flattened while regaining their form as soon as a pressure ceases.

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Claim 35 (new) A vertical suitcase of essentially parallelepipedal shape without rigid circumscribing frame and having a front face, a rear face, a lower face extending from the rear face to the front face at a bottom end of the rear face, an upper face extending from the rear face to the front face at a top end of the rear face and a pair of lateral faces extending between the rear face and the front face at edges of the rear face, wherein the front face, the rear face, the lower face, the upper face and the pair of lateral faces are made of a supple material, wherein a rigidification of the suitcase is substantially achieved by two tubes joining a lower surface part and an upper surface part supporting said supple material to form the lower face and at least part of the upper face, said tubes consisting of guides for two rods of a retractable handle provided in the upper surface part, said tubes being adjacent to the rear face opposite to the front face having an opening covered by a flap, a closing means for opening the flap, an upper surface part and a lower surface part being in the form of a curved molded piece or curved sheet of plastic defining at least upper and lower rounded arrises of the rear face of the suitcase, said pair of lateral faces being made of a supple material and each being hooped by a retaining elastic ring of rectangular form, wherein said pair of lateral faces can be flattened while regaining their form as soon as a pressure ceases.

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Claim 36 (new) Suitcase according to claim 15, wherein the supple material is a fabric.

Claims 37-44 (cancelled).